

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 SY-05 NSCE-00

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APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

NEA/P:GSHERMAN

S/PRS:RANDERSON(INFO)

EA/PRCM:TSBROOKS (INFO)

INR/OD:AMBASSADOR KIRK (INFO)

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IN, SK

SUBJECT: SIKKIM PRESS GUIDANCE

LONDON FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER

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1. FOLLOWING WAS PREPARED FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS. NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED.

2. Q: WHAT IS GOING ON IN SIKKIM?

A: WE HAVE ONLY INCOMPLETE REPORTS AND WOULD NOT WANT TO
COMMENT AT THIS TIME BEYOND OBSERVING THAT THE SIKKIM
ASSEMBLY IS APPARENTLY SEEKING THEREMOVAL OF THE CHOGYAL,
AND FULL INTEGRATION WITH INDIA.

3. Q: WHAT ABOUT THE CHOGYAL -- WHERE IS HE AND WHAT IS
HIS CONDITION?

A: ACCORDING TO LAST PRESS REPORTS THE CHOGYAL WAS IN
GANGTOK. WE HAVE NO OTHER FIRST-HAND INFORMATION REGARDING
HIS WHEREABOUTS.

4. Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON SIKKIM?

A: AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY SAID, IT IS NOT A PROBLEM IN
WHICH THE U.S. IS INVOLVED.

5. Q: WHAT RIGHT DOES INDIA HAVE TO DICTATE WHAT
HAPPENS IN SIKKIM?

A: INDIA AND SIKKIM, WHICH WAS AN INDIAN PROTECTORATE
UNTIL IT BECAME AN INDIAN ASSOCIATE STATE RECENTLY,
HAVE HAD A LONG AND INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP AND THE
QUESTION OF SIKKIM'S STATUS IS SOMETHING TO BE WORKED
OUT BETWEEN THEMSELVES.

6. Q: WOULD THE U.S. GRANT POLITICAL ASYLUM TO CHOGYAL
IF HE REQUESTS IT?

A: THAT'S A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION WHICH I AM NOT PRE-
PARED TO ADDRESS AT THIS TIME. (IF PRESSED ON U.S.
POLICY ON ASYLUM -- WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY SPECIFIC
CASE, YOU KNOW THAT OUR POLICY IS TO GIVE PROMPT
CONSIDERATION TO REQUESTS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. THE
DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN SUCH CASES ARE SENT TO
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THE U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE WHICH
HAS THE LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR THE FINAL DECISION.) KISSINGER

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